

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Phil A. Griego

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011, AS "UNITED STATES ARMY
12 RANGER SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LEROY A. PETRY DAY AT THE
13 LEGISLATURE".

14
15 WHEREAS, on July 9, 2011, Sergeant First Class Leroy A.
16 Petry received the medal of honor from President Barack Obama
17 at the White House; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Petry graduated from St. Catherine
19 Indian school in Santa Fe in 1998; and

20 WHEREAS, he attended New Mexico highlands university for a
21 year before deciding to enlist with the United States Army
22 rangers in September 1999; and

23 WHEREAS, he was in the middle of training when the
24 September 11, 2001 attacks happened; and

25 WHEREAS, on May 26, 2008, his unit was pinned down by

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1 heavy enemy fire during a rare Army ranger daytime raid in the
2 remote eastern part of Paktia province, Afghanistan; and

3 WHEREAS, he was already shot and wounded in both his legs
4 when an enemy grenade exploded near his location, wounding some
5 of his comrades, and moments later, another grenade landed even
6 closer; and

7 WHEREAS, Sergeant Petry grabbed the grenade to throw it
8 away from his unit, but it detonated as he released it, and the
9 grenade blew off his right hand; and

10 WHEREAS, Sergeant Petry underwent extensive rehabilitation
11 and was fitted with a prosthetic bionic hand, but rather than
12 retire from military service, he asked to remain enlisted on
13 active-duty status and be sent back to Afghanistan; and

14 WHEREAS, he is the first medal of honor recipient from the
15 seventy-fifth ranger regiment, only the second active-duty
16 person since the end of the Vietnam war to be awarded the medal
17 of honor, the ninth soldier to receive the medal from the wars
18 in Iraq and Afghanistan and the thirteenth medal of honor
19 recipient from New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, he has served two hundred thirty combat missions
21 and has been deployed eight times to Iraq and Afghanistan; and

22 WHEREAS, he has already received two bronze stars, one
23 purple heart, three Army commendation medals, two Army
24 achievement medals, three army good conduct medals, the
25 valorous unit award, the national defense service medal, the

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1 Afghanistan campaign medal with combat star, the Iraq campaign
2 medal with combat star and the global war on terrorism
3 expeditionary and service medals; and

4 WHEREAS, he enjoys golf, pheasant hunting and fishing and
5 is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in business management
6 at Pierce college in Washington state;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Sunday, September 11, 2011, be
9 declared "United States Army Ranger Sergeant First Class Leroy
10 A. Petry Day at the Legislature"; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to United States Army Ranger Sergeant First Class
13 Leroy A. Petry.